

that they don't change dramatically every 2 years or every 4 years depending on who is in charge.

So we don't have to wonder how our Democratic colleagues felt about the filibuster when it was of benefit to them because they made countless statements and even put their feelings in writing. When Republicans held control of the House and the Senate and the White House, our Democratic colleagues were afraid the filibuster would be eliminated. They were afraid we would do what we did not do but that which Leader SCHUMER and others are advocating now, which is to eliminate the filibuster so we could get—they were worried that we would eliminate the filibuster to get what we wanted rather than have to work together on a bipartisan basis.

So the shoe is truly on the other foot now that Democrats have a nominal majority in a 50-50 Senate but with the tie-breaking vote of the Vice President. That is why Senator SCHUMER gets to be the floor leader even though he doesn't command a majority of Senators.

Back then, when Democrats were in the minority and they were worried about eliminating the filibuster, 33 of them—33—signed a letter insisting that the filibuster be preserved. Among them was the now Vice President, then Senator KAMALA HARRIS.

Senator McCONNELL, being an institutionalist at heart, agreed, and he never wavered to pressure from anyone, even President Trump, to eliminate the filibuster. But now the tables have turned, and so have many of our colleagues' views on the filibuster.

Instead of resisting pressure to blow up the rules of the Senate and perhaps change it forever, Leader SCHUMER has gladly accepted his marching orders from the radical left, and he is trying to dismantle the longstanding rules of the Senate, what makes it exceptional, as he said, different from the House—way back when.

Senator SCHUMER banked on Republican obstruction to justify going nuclear. He is trying to set up a series of votes in order to justify going nuclear to change the Senate into the House, to eliminate the bipartisan command of that 60-vote requirement.

So he engaged in a lot of doom-and-gloom forecasting to predict that Republicans would willy-nilly filibuster Democrat legislation, but it hasn't come to pass. So now he is trying to orchestrate a series of votes that are designed to fail. And they are just that—designed to fail—because they don't represent the kind of hard work that goes into building bipartisan consensus in the Senate.

We kicked things off earlier this week with a vote on a bill that would exploit the cause of pay fairness to line the pockets of trial lawyers.

We will soon vote on the Democratic Party's attempt to seize authority from the States to run elections. This is a bill so extreme that a number of

Democrats have said they will not vote for it.

Who knows what might be next, whether it is packing the Supreme Court, making Puerto Rico or Washington, DC, a State with two Democratic Senators each, or whether they will try to use this to erode the constitutional rights of American citizens, for example, under the Second Amendment. But blocking these bills isn't an example of Republican obstruction; it is a destructive act of political theater.

Well, thank goodness there are enough Democrats who are opposed to eliminating the filibuster, apparently. So it appears that Democrats don't have the votes to make this horribly miscalculated rules change. Two of our colleagues have made clear in their statement that they have the courage to stand up for what they believe is right, despite the pressure they are receiving from the far left.

Senators MANCHIN and SINEMA have repeatedly said they will oppose efforts to eliminate the filibuster. They won't accept the short-term gain for long-term pain. Unlike the rest of their conference, their caucus, they recognize the inherent dangers of making this strictly a 51-vote majority institution. They seem to be following the advice of what then-Senator Barack Obama gave back in 2005 when then-Senator Obama said:

If the majority chooses to end the filibuster . . . then the fighting and the bitterness and the gridlock will only get worse.

The American people deserve better than that. Chipping away at the right of the minority may seem expedient now, but Democrats would be sure to regret those changes one day, just as they now regret the day that Harry Reid cleared an easy path for hundreds of conservative Federal judges.

In two years, Republicans could win the majority in either or both of the Chambers. In 4, a Republican could win the White House, as well. How would our Democratic colleagues feel then when their rights as Members of the minority are disparaged and ignored? Would our Democratic colleagues support their rule changes then? Would they then believe the Senate minority should be silenced and made irrelevant, as apparently some believe now?

Well, I find it hard to believe that that would be the case. The thing about power in Washington is it is never permanent. Majorities and Presidents change. And there is a reason why the rules should stay the same. If Democrats had the votes to eliminate the filibuster, our country would face a tidal wave of changes: defunding the police, election law hijacking by the Federal Government over the States and local jurisdictions, tax hikes as high as the mind can conceive, restricted rights under the Constitution. You get the picture.

But when the tide inevitably turns, which it will at some point, then the temptation would be on the part of the Republicans to reverse all of those

changes. The economy, the government, the average American family would be in a constant whiplash.

The requirement to get 60 votes to close off debate in the Senate is designed to protect our country from the relatively rapid changes of majorities and Presidents, and eliminating it would do serious, irreparable harm, as many of the quoted comments by distinguished Democrats have stated in the past, if not today, at least in the past. So I agree with what Senator SCHUMER said 4 years ago: We should build a firewall around it.

But in the meantime, there is still a lot of bipartisan work being done here in the Senate, even under the current rules, without the thermonuclear device of blowing up the 60-vote cloture requirement known as the filibuster. But every day that the Democratic leader wastes on political theater, which he knows is not going to succeed, is a day we have wasted in passing bipartisan legislation that will benefit all of the American people, not just a partisan majority.

This is the world's greatest deliberative body. It may be one of the last ones in existence. I don't know any other place in our country or around the world where Senators can come down to the Senate floor and express their views no matter how unpopular, no matter how politically incorrect, but engage in actual debate and exchange of views, which ultimately give the American people the best opportunity to make up their own minds about what policies they agree with and who they trust to protect their welfare.

This is the world's greatest deliberative body. There are far more important ways to spend our time than on political theater.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 118, 125, and 126.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce; Adrienne Todman, of the Virgin Islands, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Nuria I. Fernandez, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote en bloc on the nominations without intervening action or debate; and if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the

table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kiernan, Todman, and Fernandez nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL TERRELL K. TILLERY

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exceptional member of the Department of the Air Force. I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Terrell "T" Tillery's distinguished service and dedication to enhancing the relationship between the U.S. Air Force and my office.

Lieutenant Colonel Tillery has distinguished himself through his professional character and leadership by serving our Nation in uniform. A leader and expert communicator, he has provided exemplary service to our country while assigned to the Air Force Senate Liaison Office. Terrell is a career force support officer with experience in manpower, personnel, and services, including assignments as a force support squadron commander, recorder for the USAF Selection Board Secretariat, and a squadron section commander. He has served tours at the base, major command, agency, center and air staff levels. He has deployed in support of Operations Willing Spirit, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom's Sentinel. It was this experience that made Terrell the perfect fit to serve as a legislative liaison officer for the Department of the Air Force for the past 2 years on Capitol Hill.

Terrell served as a legislative liaison officer from July 2019 to May 2021, skillfully performing his duties throughout. His attention to detail and responsiveness strengthened the capabilities of my office in support of our special relationship with the Air Force. Specifically, Terrell shaped numerous engagements between my office and Air Force senior leaders. Of special concern to me was the related dialog concerning the Air Force's future to in-

clude that of the KC-46 and B-21 aircraft, the Next Generation Air Dominance Program, and the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. Additionally, Terrell's direct support provided me and my staff with critical information necessary for our consideration of two National Defense Authorization Acts.

After concluding this challenging assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Tillery will take command of another U.S. Air Force squadron, this time the 355th Force Support Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, AZ. In closing, I express my gratitude and appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Tillery for his excellent support of me and my staff in furtherance of the Air Force and Space Force missions and my appreciation to his supportive family, Mrs. Catherine Tillery, and their three children Tucker, Collier and Chandler Grace. I wish this Air Force family all the best in their next chapter of service to our Nation.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### RECOGNIZING BLUEGRASS FAMILY WELLNESS, PLLC

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I will recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Bluegrass Family Wellness, PLLC, of Crestwood, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2014, Dr. Molly Rutherford and her husband Chris Rutherford founded Bluegrass Family Wellness, PLLC, in Crestwood, KY. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Dr. Rutherford earned an MPH in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University and an M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School, specializing in family medicine. After 8 years of working in the healthcare sector, Dr. Rutherford and her husband established Bluegrass Family Wellness. Through a direct primary care model, Bluegrass Family Wellness provides individualized, affordable, and accessible medical care for Oldham County and the surrounding area.

As a medical practitioner, Dr. Rutherford has been at the forefront of battling the opioid crisis in Kentucky. She pursued a specialty in addiction medicine, ensuring that Bluegrass Family Wellness treated addiction with an evidence-based approach balancing medication and counseling. From 2018 to 2019, Dr. Rutherford served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pain Management Best Practices Intra-Agency Task Force, which produced a report highlighting the connection between pain management and the opioid crisis. Dr. Rutherford served as president of the Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine. She is a board member of the Unbridled Project, a

nonprofit advocating for evidence-based solutions to the opioid crisis.

Together with her husband Chris, Dr. Rutherford consistently gives back to her community. Locally, Bluegrass Family Wellness has sponsored several Little League teams, the Oldham County Youth Football League, and East Oldham Middle School. They support several charitable organizations, including a scholarship for a City Schoolhouse, a private school in Louisville, KY. Dr. Rutherford and her family are active within their local church community, as well. Notably, Dr. Rutherford is a member of the Coalition for a Healthy Oldham County, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Society for Addiction Medicine, the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians, and the Indiana State Medical Association.

Like many local physicians, Dr. Rutherford and her team stepped up to keep their community safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic unfolded, Dr. Rutherford continued seeing patients in person and by telemedicine. She treated COVID-19 patients at her practice and published a peer-reviewed article alongside several physicians regarding early outpatient treatment for COVID-19. Dr. Rutherford consistently spoke out about the negative effects of lockdowns, highlighting impact on individuals battling addiction. Dr. Rutherford published op-eds on the harm school lockdowns caused children, successfully advocating for reopening Jefferson County Public Schools.

Bluegrass Family Wellness, PLLC, is a remarkable example of the critical role that small, family-oriented medical practices play in their communities. Local medical practices like Bluegrass Family Wellness form the heart of towns across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities in times of crisis. Congratulations to Dr. Rutherford, Chris, and the entire team at Bluegrass Family Wellness. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky. •

### TRIBUTE TO CHASE POUST

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of 7-year-old Chase Poust, of Jacksonville, FL, and thank the brave first responders with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission whose actions saved Chase's dad, Steven, and 4-year-old sister, Abigail.

On May 28, 2021, Steven, Chase, and Abigail were boating and swimming on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, FL, when the current pulled 4-year-old Abigail away, causing her to lose grip from the boat. Her father, Steven, jumped in to try to bring her back to safety. At the direction of his dad, Chase swam to get to the shore to find